Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-085
Thursday
2 May 1991

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Criticizes 'Arbitrary' U.S. Conditions

NC0105144991 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Cairo, May 1 (AFP)—The United States wants only Palestinians from the occupied territories to attend future peace talks, although it opposes those from occupied East Jerusalem, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said.

"The most dangerous thing is that the United States totally ignores the East Jerusalem question," Mr. 'Arafat told an Egyptian delegation in Tripoli, Libya, according to the opposition weekly AL-AHALI published Wednesday.

Israel, which occupied East Jerusalem in 1967 after the Six-Day War, considers the whole city to be reunified and not subject to negotiation.

The report came as Mr. 'Arafat and other Middle East leaders gave May Day speeches that focused on prospects for peace in the region.

Israeli authorities refuse the presence of East Jerusalem Palestinians, who were given a different status from Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, at any future peace talks.

Conditions from Washington to resolve the Palestinian problem are "arbitrary" and the United States, "instead of pressuring Israel, exerts strong pressure on Arab countries," the Palestine Liberation Organization leader said.

Mr. 'Arafat also complained that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told Palestinians in Jerusalem recently that Israel had assured Washington it would stop Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

But shortly after the meeting a new settlement was created, the PLO leader said.

In a May Day address to Palestinians, Mr. 'Arafat said American and Israeli efforts to bypass the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO, would fail, the Palestinian press agency, WAFA, reported from Tunis.

The Palestinian people will "pursue its struggle and intifadah (the uprising in the occupied territories) until victory," he said.

In Damascus, meanwhile, Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi said Israel did not want a balanced solution in the Middle East and was "the main obstacle" to peace in the region.

"The idea of peace is not included in Israel's Zionist strategy," he said.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in another May Day speech called on Israel to stop settling Jews in the occupied territories, which he said seriously hurt prospects for peace.

The Unified Leadership of the Uprising called on Palestinians in the occupied territories to overcome their differences regarding the U.S. proposal for a regional peace conference, Palestinian sources said in Jerusalem.

In a communique, the leadership denounced the plan in its current form, but left the door open for an eventual dialogue with the United States.

Addresses Palestinian Workers 1 May

LD0105215391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 May 91

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Palestinian workers "in the occupied homeland and in the diaspora" on the occasion of International Workers' Day, 1 May—read by announcer]

[Text] My dear brother strugglers of our people from the Palestinian working class in the occupied homeland and the diaspora: On this historic day, 1 May, when you share with the workers of the whole world this glorious day, I offer on behalf of all the classes and groups of our Palestinian people, and on my own behalf and on behalf of my brothers in the PLO Executive Committee, the most sincere sentiments of struggle to the comrades of the trench who are making a gigantic effort in all places of production, steadfastness, and confrontation with a patience that does not yield and a determination that does waver in prolonging the Palestinian resistance and building the bright Palestinian future.

My sisters and brothers, if the working classes around the world are marking this day in similar ways and means, celebration of this day takes a different form and meaning in our dear homeland, Palestine. It takes the form of resistance, confrontation as a part of our people's blessed intifadah and their daily valiant resistance for the sake of regaining their full legitimate national rights, led by the Right of return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. It is another day, a day which has its own color and distinguished taste of struggle in confronting the most vicious occupation in contemporary human history—the hateful Zionist occupation. The time has come to leave our sacred land, and to end this hateful day-and-night Zionist occupation of our Palestine, using your hands and your struggling, and those of the masses of our struggling, steadfast people.

My sisters and brothers, the daily difficulties you suffer for the sake of prolonging the Palestinian life, and the courage and resistance you demonstrate patiently and persistently side by side all the sons of our Palestinian people; and the savagery, fascism, racial discrimination, and criminal spirit against your land and your people demonstrated in return by the Israeli occupation—all that is taking place within the sight and earshot of the world. It daily shakes the conscience of the international community, which remains unable to punish the Israeli

occupation due to the U.S. comprehensive protection, support, and cover for that Israeli occupation and all the vicious Israeli crimes.

The United States is the same, it is the same [nation] that displayed all that enthusiasm and speed which we witnessed when it was working to settle the Gulf issue in a destructive military fashion, and in a way that struck against Arab military capability and swallowed a large portion of Arab financial capability. If the Arab situation continues as it is now, this extensive U.S. attack will come to the rest of the Arab nation's capabilities as a whole.

My sisters and brothers, our Arab nation is now experiencing that most difficult moment [lahzah] in its ancient and contemporary history. These are moments which decide whether the Arab nation will be or never be. The plans covertly schemed for this nation are dangerous and threaten its future. Unless the Arab nation regains its inner cohesion and starts building the components of victory over the internal wounds which have been left by the Gulf crisis and war, a capability which is available up until now, the plan—a part of which has been implemented—will proceed a long way on the path of implementation which would make it difficult to confront.

The enemies' weapons and force are countered with Arab weapons and force; powerful weapons capable of influencing and changing. The secret word in reamassing the capabilities of the Arab nation and uniting its ranks in Palestine and holy Jerusalem. We have previously worked relentlessly and patiently to drive away war and avoid it because we already know its results and effects through efforts to deal with the crisis within the Arab framework in the interests of Kuwait and Iraq, and in the interest of the Arab nation. The drums of war and warmongers, however, were more capable of igniting its fuse. We are now working toward generally reinjecting life to Arab action to erect a dam between the dark plans and the capabilities, dignity, and future of the Arab nation, and we are aspiring to succeed in this new purpose, because without it, this Arab nation will face other disasters.

My sisters and brothers, at these very moments I see it as my duty, based on the honor of the trust you have put in me, that I should talk to you candidly and directly about our Palestinian situation and the ongoing political moves, particularly the current diplomacy undertaken by the United States. When the U.S. Administration rejected the establishment of any linkage or connection between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine issue, it said that that was one issue and the other was a different one and it pledged to hasten in finding a just solution to the Palestine issue immediately after the Gulf crisis ended. With our experience and knowledge we knew very well that the U.S. Administration uses various criteria in interpreting international legitimacy, and in a way that secures its own interests and those of its ally, Israel. We know very well that the Gulf oil is one thing and the Palestinian suffering—rather Palestinian blood—is another in the eyes of the United States and the international forces which stand by its side.

Despite all that, after the grinding war which was managed by the U.S. Administration on Arab land and with Arab blood and money, President George Bush announced his plan to resolve the Palestine issue before the U.S. Congress based on exchanging land for peace and on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and guarantees regarding legitimate Palestinian political rights. Despite the obvious, fundamental shortcomings of the plan, we decided to demonstrate a positive trend by dealing with what is positive in the U.S. plan and move.

In all honesty, I will tell you, my sisters and brothers, that that U.S. move and plan have started to sink in the whirlpool of Israeli intransigence and rejection. What is the U.S. Administration going to do regarding Israel? Will it use a small part of what it has used and done with Iraq?

My sisters and brothers, the U.S. Administration is absolutely certain that Israel has hindered and will hinder the peace process in the region, yet it so far has not done what should be done to force Israel to open up prospects for a true, just, and lasting peace that would guarantee our sacred Palestinian national rights. This kind of policy yet again plants the seeds of another war in the region. Nothing will be right on this land, no peace will be realized, no stability will be established, nor will a new international or regional order be founded by jumping over the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return, self-determination, and establishing their independent national state with Jerusalem as its capital; and these have been confirmed by the UN resolutions and by international legitimacy.

My sisters and brothers, events and developments have confirmed that the results of the Gulf war have increased the intensity of the Palestinian fire, driven deeper the roots of Palestinian faith and strengthened Palestinian national unity, relying in all that on God Almighty and the struggle of our masses, their firmness and their unique capabilities to step up the struggle, revolution, and the blessed intifadah while adhering to their national commitments, their legitimate leadership, and the Palestinian peace plan which was announced by our National Council on 15 November 1988 as a strategic (?option) for establishing justice and peace for all.

Let everyone be aware that any maneuvers [words indistinct] will not succeed [passage omitted]. The Palestinian people, and you are at the forefront, will continue their struggle, their jihad and their intifadah until they clinch victory, and until the Palestinian flag is hoisted on the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. The dawn will come and so will victory.

PLO Condemns Murder of Tourist in Bethlehem

LD0105225491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 May 91

[TexT] The Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] has strongly condemned the stabbing which led to the death

of a female European tourist in Bethlehem yesterday. A spokesman for the PLO said that the stabbing of the tourist in Bethlehem was contrary to all the codes of practice and instructions issued by the PLO.

While condemning this criminal act, the PLO reaffirms its condemnation and denunciation of terrorism, whether individual, collective, or state terrorism as repeatedly declared by its chairman, brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat]

Meanwhile, the spokesman warned that the stance of the Israeli Government—rejecting all peace plans and the implementation of [UN] Security Council and UN resolutions concerning the Middle East—would lead to eruptions in the entire region, not just occupied Palestine.

The spokesman urged President Bush and Secretary Baker to declare a clear stance on the Israeli Government's refusal to comply with the [UN] Security Council resolutions concerning the ending of the occupation of occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

West Bank Figures Denounce Act

JN0105185191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpts] A PLO spokesman today strongly condemned the assassination of a French tourist in Bethlehem yesterday. The spokesman reiterated the PLO's denunciation and rejection of all forms of individual, collective, or state terrorism. The Palestinian news agency WAFA cited the spokesman as warning that the intransigent attitude of the Israeli Government, which rejects the peace plan and the implementation of UN resolutions, will create explosive situations not only in the occupied territories, but in other Middle East regions as well.

In intifadah clashes today, Israeli forces inflicted more casualties in the occupied territory where the intifadah leaders denounced the assassination of the French tourist. Our occupied territory correspondent Basim Abu-Sumayyah reports more:

[Begin Abu-Sumayyah recording] [passage omitted] Palestinian sources in Bethlehem said that Khalid 'Asakirah, the 19-year-old man charged with stabbing to death a French tourist yesterday in one of the city's restaurants, gave himself up to Israeli authorities this morning. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and Faysal al-Husayni, president of the Arab studies association, have condemned the killing of the tourist. While Frayj asked Palestinian officials in the occupied territory to condemn the incident, Faysal al-Husayni sent a cable to the French consul in Jerusalem in which he extended his condolences to the family of the murdered woman and to the French people. He said the incident would not disturb the historical relations between the Palestinian and the French peoples. [end recording]

Algeria

Parties Merge Into 'National Salvation Front'

LD0105161291 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] The National Front for Renewal has been holding its first conference in the Auressi Hotel. It has decided to enter the coming legislative elections under the umbrella of a front called the National Salvation Front, which brings together the Islamic Democrat Movement [as heard], under the leadership of Mr. Abderrahman Adjerid, and another group that has broken ranks with the Democratic Youth Movement. From the Auressi, radio correspondent (Hizia Hideb) reports:

[(Hideb)] The National Front for Renewal will now be known as the National Salvation Front. For this reason, and so as to amend the statute, a one-day conference of the National Front for Renewal has been going on at the Auressi Hotel since this morning. The front was formed in the governorate of Bedjaia on 5 July 1989, in accordance with the law on associations with a political character.

The convening of this conference also comes as a legal obligation for the National Front for Renewal, which is going to merge with the Islamic Democratic Party [as heard] led by Mr. Abderrahman Adjerid, together with another group that had broken ranks with the Democratic Youth Movement, in a front called the National Salvation Front.

Under this umbrella, or new appellation, the front will enter the coming legislative elections, naturally after obtaining a license from the Interior Ministry. This explains the speed in preparing for this conference—just 10 days as stated by the chairman of the National Front for Renewal—to be able to hand in the application forms for a license as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Islamic Front Calls for 'Political Strike'

LD0105205891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front held a popular rally today in the 19 June Stadium in Oran, which was attended by about 50,000 people. The rally was presided over by Mr. Abassi Madani, who delivered a speech in which he stressed the idea of a political strike:

[Begin Madani recording] The Islamic Salvation Front says we are ready to embark on the elections, however, with guarantees; legitimate methodological guarantees, the first of which is not to act according to these repressive laws, as we cannot achieve legitimacy through illegitimacy, unless the president of the Republic complies with the opinion of the Islamic Salvation Front. One of the characteristics of the Islamic Salvation Front is to demand and to struggle. When claiming does not prove convincing enough, striving to achieve what is right becomes necessary, God willing. It is a general strike, a political strike, not one for partial unionist conventional demands. [end recording]

Egypt

UK's Hurd Arrives on Middle East Tour

NC0105172291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in Cairo this evening for a one-day visit as part of his tour of the Middle East, which will also take him to Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

During the visit, Hurd will meet with President Husni Mubarak. He will also hold talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Hurd was received on arrival by Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and British Ambassador James Adams.

Developments Viewed

NC0105192491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1849 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd met this evening. They reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the efforts being made to find a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian issue. At a dinner hosted by 'Abd-al-Majid in Hurd's honor, they commented on Europe's role in maintaining the momentum of the peace process in the region.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

NC0105162891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this evening for a two-day visit.

Speaking upon arrival, Dr. al-Iryani stated that he is carrying a message to President Husni Mubarak from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on bilateral relations and developments at the Arab and international levels.

Dr. al-Iryani added that recent developments require consultations and an exchange of views within the Arab household.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0205093691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the presidential headquarters this morning.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and the Yemeni ambassador in Cairo.

Daily Comments on Israel's 'Intransigent Stand'

NC0205073791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0535 GMT 2 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR comments on Israel's intransigent stand. It says: All the flimsy excuses and arguments, which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his Likud bloc colleagues are using to justify their rejection of the principle of land for peace by claiming that Israel needs strategic depth to defend itself against a possible Arab attack, are no longer valid. No military politician anywhere takes these flimsy arguments seriously any more.

The paper goes on to say that whatever efforts or pressures it may exert, Israel cannot deprive the Arabs of possessing missiles to defend their security should they be subjected to a new aggression from any party. This is especially true since Israel has rejected all proposals to rid the Middle East region of weapons of mass destruction and to eliminate all the causes of tension and anxiety in the region, foremost of which is the maintenance of an occupied Arab territory. This alone is a sufficient reason to obstruct any kind of peace.

Information Minister on 1991-92 Budget Figures

NC2604193391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 April (MENA)—Today, following a cabinet meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif announced that the state's general budget for the new fiscal year 1991-92 will total 45.431 billion Egyptian pounds. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. During the meeting, the cabinet approved the budget proposals that will be referred to the People's Assembly before the constitutional deadline of 30 April.

The information minister said that the draft budget contains a number of features, chief of which is that the total deficit has been reduced to 9.348 billion Egyptian pounds. This is the first time in five years that the planned deficit has been less than 10 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP]. The deficit in the proposed budget is only 9.3 percent of the GDP.

The volume of wages and pensions is 10.878 billion Egyptian pounds. The subsidies for goods and services total 7.355 billion Egyptian pounds. The sum of 1.1 billion Egyptian pounds has been earmarked to reform the financial structure of state-owned companies and make them market oriented.

The budget proposals involve a government contribution of 0.6 billion Egyptian pounds to the social fund to employ young people and resolve the problem of unemployment.

The information minister said that the prime minister noted during the meeting that the budget is based on several principles, namely, lowering the total deficit to 9.3 percent of the GDP, confining public investment to projects of infrastructure and services, and leaving economic investment to the business sector. The budget also involves allocations to service Egypt's foreign debts pending agreement on the latter's reduction.

Al-Sharif said that the budget involves an expenditure of 1.1 billion Egyptian pounds to enhance the performance of public sector companies and enable them to compete in the coming phase when they will be treated in the same way as private sector enterprises.

The budget also reflects the objectives of streamlining the expenditure of the state's administrative apparatus, encouraging the reliance on local revenues to improve services, and allocating the necessary funds to modernize the administrative apparatus so as to be able to support the reform efforts.

The information minister said that the cabinet has approved the plan for the fiscal year 1991-92. He said that Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, set forth the general indications of the plan for the fiscal year. The volume of total investment of the 1991-92 plan is estimated at approximately 18.8 billion Egyptian pounds. Some 8.1 billion Egyptian pounds of this is for the private sector, that is, 43 percent; whereas the ratio of the private sector contribution in the first year of the current development plan 1987-88 was only 24 percent of the volume of investment.

The information minister said that Dr. al-Janzuri noted that the total investments of the two development plans 1982-87 and 1987-92 are estimated at approximately 131 billion Egyptian pounds, of which 38 billion Egyptian pounds are the private sector investments. Al-Janzuri pointed out that the investments that have been implemented basically involved infrastructure projects. The projects that have been implemented totaled approximately 49 billion Egyptian pounds. The replacement, renovation, and development of equipment and machines of factories totaled approximately 23 billion Egyptian pounds.

The information minister said that the cabinet also reviewed a report submitted by the finance minister. The report showed that the new 1991-92 budget will achieve a stage of the overall development plan. The budget plan is based on two main factors: First, the economic dimension which is aimed at increasing self-reliance and increasing the productivity of the national economy; and second, the social dimension aimed at securing the services that concern the people, such as education, health, and other main services. The report pointed out that the budget plan includes 13.5 billion Egyptian pounds for social services to be borne by the state treasury for education, health, pensions, and securities that maintain a reasonable standard of living for the broad base of the masses.

Kuwait

Minister Denies Claim by Algeria's Ghozali

PM0105095591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Madi al-Khamis report: "Al-Ya'qub Replies to Campaign of Lies: Iraq Aborted Arab Solution and Ignored International Resolutions"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has expressed his astonishment and amazement at the statements made by Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, in which he accused Kuwait of rejecting the Arab solution for a settlement of the dispute with Iraq. He pointed out that such statements are aimed at justifying the erroneous actions committed against Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti minister added: It is regrettable that the Algerian foreign minister should allege before the European Parliament Political Committee meeting in Brussels that he had a copy of a message from his highness the country's amir instructing His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, who was on a visit to Saudi Arabia, to stick to the plan prepared by the Americans.

The saddening thing, the information minister added, is that Mr. Ghozali referred to an alleged letter, about which the Kuwaiti Government has announced on more than one occasion, even in UN circles, that the Iraqi regime is using a number of official letterheads seized during its invasion of Kuwait to facilitate the fabrication of a number of letters and documents and then attribute them to Kuwaiti officials. [passage omitted]

The minister concluded his statement by saying: We emphasized that world states' support for Kuwait and their rallying around it, have caused some to lose their balance and made them believe that by stirring up such matters they can justify their erroneous actions against themselves, their homeland, their nation, and Kuwait, which was exposed under their eyes and ears, and sometimes with their blessing, to the ugliest crime history has ever known, a crime which has burned everything, claimed the lives of the flower of Kuwait's youths, and destroyed the landmarks of its progress and development.

Communique Announces Plans for Citizens' Return

LD0205014191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2010 GMT 1 May 91

[From the "Kuwait Message" program]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: A communique from the general committee for the supervision and orientation of the committees in charge of issuing return cards.

Dear generous Kuwaiti citizens: At the height of the pervasive joy and in the midst of our most glorious moments embodied in the first step and with joy that is full of hope and anticipation of the reconstruction of the jewel of the Gulf, we have the honor—thanks to God—to announce to all Kuwaiti citizens the beginning of the return which will take place, according to an organized schedule, as of 11 May 1991, through announcing the group numbers on their permits issued for entry to the country. To facilitate achievement of the pursued objective, we hope that everyone will confine themselves to group numbers and to their days of entry, which will be announced for the sake of avoiding overcrowding and exposing the citizens to the heat of the weather as they assemble, taking note of the fact that the citizens will be received via the two centers of al-Khafji and (al-Ragi). The generous citizens are, therefore, requested to go to the nearest center to their point of departure. [passage omitted]

The communique also said: It is worth mentioning that we will work toward increasing the number of groups in the future. Also, the committees in charge of return cards will continue working to receive the citizens. [passage omitted]

Oman

Minister Denies State 'Mediating' Between Arabs

JN0105144391 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has expressed the importance of establishing the future security arrangements of the Gulf region on the basis of discussions with the concerned parties, including Iran and the Western countries.

In an interview with Radio London last night, his excellency denied the Sultanate is mediating among any Arab countries to contain the effects of the Gulf war. He said the Arab countries still maintain official relations with each other and the situation requires no mediation whatsoever. If at any stage or time, the need arises for help by any concerned side, the Sultanate will not hesitate to help.

Asked about security arrangements in light of the Damascus Declaration and the concern the Sultanate has always shown regarding the need for the participation of the countries in the region, including Iran [word indistinct], Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said in an interview with the BBC: We realize very well that the responsibility lies with the six Gulf member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] since they are Arab countries and have responsibilities and commitments to the Arabs. As Gulf countries, we have interests and cooperation needs with neighboring countries, specifically the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that the GCC countries have huge oil resources, which affect the daily life of the industrial

countries. The GCC countries also have traditional and historical relations with Europe and the United States in particular. We wish to maintain these relations. He said that all these sides had taken (?final positions) on the security of the Gulf states; all agreed that the Gulf states were responsible for finding the ideas that will eventually create a true and reasonable balance among all the interests that bind them together.

Asked about the Sultanate's opinion and that of the other GCC states on the British proposal to deploy international police on Iraqi territory to protect the Kurds, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: Undoubtedly, Iraq must secure its regional sovereignty and borders. One must avoid anything that might affect Iraq's sovereignty, since all the current efforts are humanitarian ones for the Kurdish refugees.

UAE President Shaykh Zayid Arrives 1 May

JN0105172491 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, arrived in the Sultanate this afternoon on an official visit of several days. He was invited by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. His majesty the sultan headed those welcoming his brother Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan on arrival at the special Sultani airport. [passage omitted]

Ties Discussed

JN0105195191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Muscat, 1 May (WAKH)—Official talks were held in Muscat this evening between Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, said in a statement at the conclusion of the talks that the two leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations, which are developing continuously thanks to the directives of the two brother leaders. In a statement cited by the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, al-'Alawi said the two leaders also discused the situation in the Gulf after the liberation of Kuwait and the stability in the region after victory over the aggression. He added that the two leaders also exchanged opinions on the steps that should be taken among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to achieve security and stability in the region within the framework of common action between the GCC states and other Arab and international parties.

The Omani minister added that Sultan Qabus and His Highness Shaykh Zayid will continue their consultations in the interest of the two countries and the region, as well as the international issues in general. He added that there will be meetings between the ministers accompanying His Highness Shaykh Zayid and their Omani counterparts.

The Omani minister expressed hope that the visit will be crowned with more success and further steps for continuous cooperation between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Denounces West's Move on Kurds

JN0105180691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1716 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has strongly denounced the attempts by France, Britain, and the United States to use the UN Security Council once again as a cloak for carrying out a new aggressive act against Iraq.

In a statement to INA today, the foreign minister said the French and British attempts constitute a new and serious violation of Iraq's sovereignty and the unity of its national soil. He stated that these attempts constitute a further violation of the UN Charter and the rules of international law on the pretext of providing protection and guarantees for Iraqi Kurds in view of the "agreement that has been reached between four Iraqi Kurdish parties and the Iraqi Government."

The minister explained that the request of France and Britain to hold consultations among the five UN Security Council permanent member states on the alleged guarantees and their proposal to form what they called an international police force is not only an action disapproved by Iraq and the overwhelming majority of the international community, but also an action that provides new evidence of these three states' persistently arrogant policies and premeditated determination to violate the inviolability of the sovereignty and independence of other states and to interfere in other states' domestic affairs.

The foreign minister explained that the understanding and agreement between the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish parties is a purely domestic Iraqi affair. He said that any attempt by any foreign party under any pretext or cloak, be it direct interference by that foreign party or through the UN Security Council, will only be a hostile act violating Iraq's independence and sovereignty that will gravely harm the security, safety, and unity of the entire Iraqi people, especially the Kurdish sons of our people.

The foreign minister added: It is a well-known and established fact that reaching agreement and understanding between a government and a party opposing it in any country is the proper approach to resolve and overcome problems and that past and recent history of countries and peoples is full of such cases. We have never heard or read of such a hostile and dishonest approach as the one that some states are attempting to impose on Iraq and the world. He added that this approach is based on premeditated plans and malicious intentions toward Iraq.

The minister warned that what these states are doing and attempting to force on Iraq, using their troops directly or through the pursuit of a policy of imposition and dictation to the UN Security Council, is categorically rejected by the Iraqi Government, because it constitutes a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, an independent country and member of the United Nations. In addition, it is a blatant violation of the provisions enshrined in the world body's charter, the minister added.

The minister went on to say that France and Britain, which are taking up this suspect issue and attempting to involve the UN Security Council in it, in fact do not seek to achieve anything related to the real interests of the Kurds. On the contrary, they seek to obstruct the understanding and agreement attained between the Iraqi Government and the representatives of Kurdish parties, because this understanding and agreement will enhance and consecrate Iraq's national unity and bolster the Iraqi people's security and stability, something these two countries do not want to see, the minister said.

The minister noted the real objective behind the British proposal to form a so-called international police to protect the Kurds. He said the proposal is aimed at inflicting more harm and damage on Iraq and its people and at stabbing its national unity by obstructing the return of the Kurdish refugees to their villages, cities, houses, and property. This is taking place particularly since it became clear in the past few days that the overwhelming majority of Iraqi Kurdish citizens have refused to enter the camps forcibly established by the Americans, French, and British in northern Iraq under the pretext of providing the Kurdish refugees with relief and humanitarian aid.

The foreign minister mentioned three basic factors that emerged recently to expose the American-British-French scheme. He said the first factor was the understanding reached between the Iraqi Government and the four Kurdish parties. This understanding has exposed the false humanitarian pretexts that the three countries are hiding behind.

The second factor is the clear and comprehensive agreement concluded by Iraq and the United Nations on 18 April 1991 to organize the necessary relief aid to all Iraqis, including Iraqi Kurds, who were forced—for many known reasons—to leave their homes. This agreement has defined the practical, sound, and active solution to this issue, causing these countries to lose their pretext.

The minister said the third factor, which has emerged very clearly during the past few days, is that the vast majority of Iraqi Kurds who left have clearly and categorically refused to enter the camps set up by the three abovementioned countries, set up with the use of force in some places, in northern Iraq. The Iraqi Kurds have insisted on returning to their homes, villages, and towns, and have refused to play the game aimed at turning them from displaced people into refugees in camps only a few kilometers from their homes.

The foreign minister concluded his statement by saying that the British-French-U.S. attempt to form what is called an international police force is an attempt that cannot be taken separately from what these countries

have already done, such as the outrageous acts they have committed against Iraq. On the whole, these acts have led and continue to lead to dangerous tampering with Iraq's sovereignty and its people's security, safety, and unity. They also represent a new policy that portends large-scale dangers and results regarding the independence and sovereignty of countries and their regional safety. This calls for the international community to condemn them and take action to stop them.

Kurdistan Front To Send Delegation to Baghdad

NC0105180191 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 May

[Text] Following a meeting it held on 30 April 1991, a spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdistan Front stated the following:

The leadership of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front reaffirms its desire to achieve a political and peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem within a democratic and united Iraq. Therefore, it has decided:

1. To send a delegation to Baghdad shortly to continue the dialogue and submit proposals to a government delegation.

2. To express its appreciation to all the states, establishments, and societies that have given humanitarian aid to the Kurdish refugees and to request that this aid be increased to the necessary level.

3. To appeal to the international alliance and the UN Security Council to sponsor [tabanni] the agreement which we hope will be concluded between the Kurdistan Front and the Iraqi Government, to guarantee its implementation, and to contribute to the liberation and development of Iraqi Kurdistan to help consolidate peace and security in Iraq and the region.

4. To appeal to the friends and generous allies of the Kurdish people to understand their circumstances and to render the necessary support to their strugglers to achieve a political and democratic solution and to save the Kurdish people from disaster.

U.S. 'Pressure' for Return Noted

NC0105153391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Western media have admitted that U.S. and Western forces are exerting continuous pressure to force Iraqi opposition groups in Kurdistan to comply with their designs. In this connection, (?London) radio said that U.S. pressure has [words indistinct] removed barriers placed on certain roads to block the return of refugees.

Sources in the region believe that the U.S.-Western military moves in the Iraqi-Turkish border area over the past two days were aimed at containing any military activity by the Iraqi Kurdish opposition there.

There are suspicions that the U.S.-Western operation is intended to force the Iraqi Kurds to return to Iraq. So far we have received no confirmation or denial of reports that U.S. and Western forces are surrounding some revolutionary units in Kurdistan.

U.S. and Western sources said on Sunday that their forces already advanced more than 40 km along the Iraqi-Kurdish border and that this advance was continuing.

Paper Denounces West's 'Dirty Methods' at UN

JN0205082491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has strongly denounced the dirty methods that enemies and imperialist circles, especially the United States, Britain, and France, are using to tear Iraq apart under the cover of international legitimacy.

In its editorial today, the paper says that through its malicious attempts, the colonialist West has once again showed its false nature and the false legitimacy it long advocated only to use as cover for its aggressive war against Iraq. All honorable people in the world now wonder what the imperialist West wants from Iraq, says the paper.

AL-QADISIYAH asks: Where is international legitimacy? The Security Council is only skilled at implementing the orders of the West, especially the United States, Britain, and France, so much so that any free, honorable voice cannot get through to the world.

The paper stresses that Security Council resolutions and debates for more than eight months have been nothing more than approvals allowing oppressors to persist in their oppression and denying rightful parties their rights. The latest such debate, explains the paper, is the one the permanent member states intend to hold on a British-French proposal.

AL-QADISIYAH says the features of the conspiracy are clear to everybody, and the nature of the bad, premeditated intentions against Iraq are now clearer than ever, especially after the Iraqi leadership has made great strides in reaching an understanding with representatives of the Kurdish movements in Iraq and after it signed an agreement with the United Nations determining how the Kurds can return to their cities and villages.

The paper says Iraq is fully aware of how imperialism is trying to make Iraq subservient to it, carrying out its orders, away from its independence and progressive policy.

It adds that the game of international legitimacy, which the big powers that bear grudges against Iraq are playing, has revealed an important fact—namely, that the world, under the so-called new security order, will only be like districts ruled by world imperialism, not only through

armies, but also through the institutions that were originally founded to establish peace and stability on earth.

All facts, says the paper, prove the falsehood of Western allegations, especially as made by the United States, Britain, and France. The true aim is to arrange the contemporary world in accordance with imperialist wishes and whims.

AL-QADISIYAH concludes: In presenting these facts to the world, we stress our denunciation of all these dirty methods and emphasize that our people are stronger than this rancorous conspiracy.

European Parliament's Invitation to Talks Praised

JN0205081091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the invitation extended by the European Parliament during its recent meeting in Luxembourg to Iraq to attend the Euro-Arab conference reveals the truth about the Iraqi role in the region's issues, particularly those related to its security and economic prosperity.

In a commentary today, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party says: By continuing to deal with this reality, the European Parliament is trying to give its member states a tangible role in the region to face the deliberate U.S.-Zionist attempts to keep that role at a distance.

The paper says that the European Parliament's invitation to Iraq to attend that meeting asserts the importance of the role which it is hoped Iraq will play in formulating the future of the region.

AL-THAWRAH says that the European gesture toward Iraq constitutes a realistic position that takes into account Iraq's economic and political size and its positive influences in the course of future Arab action.

Continuing to assess that invitation, the paper adds: The invitation also constitutes an acknowledgment of Iraq's ability to quickly achieve cohesion once again and also to continue playing its constructive role to establish equivalent political and economic ties between the Arab states and Europe.

The paper emphasizes the fact that the West's interest requires such a role in order to achieve the expansion of trade and industrial relations between the two sides.

Sudan Said Ready To Hold Iraq's Chemical Arms

PM0105142191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 30 Apr 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "After Tariq 'Aziz's Talks in Khartoum, al-Bashir Agrees To Stockpile Iraq's Chemical Weapons"]

[Excerpt] Bonn, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Reliable sources from the Sudanese People's Liberation Army have revealed that the al-Bashir government has agreed to stockpile Iraqi chemical weapons in Sudan. The sources said that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Sudan was to that end. 'Aziz conveyed to President 'Umar al-Bashir the wish of the Iraqi regime's leader to move his chemical weapons together with Scud missiles and other advanced weapons to Sudan in order to avoid their destruction in accordance with the international resolution.

Meanwhile, world human rights organizations yesterday revealed that conditions in Sudanese prisons, especially in Shala Prison in Darfur and Kabar Prison in Khartoum, are very bad to the extent that some prisoners are suffering from fatal diseases. [passage omitted]

Minister on Electrical Sector Repairs

JN0105192291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister, has stated that 90 percent of the electrical sector in Iraq was destroyed by the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di said that eight thermal stations, fourteen gas stations, eight hydroelectric stations, and one secondary station were destroyed.

In a speech inaugurating the first seminar on the reconstruction in record time of the electrical sector in Iraq, Lt. Gen. al-Sa'di noted that ministry authorities began to repair and rehabilitate the national electricity grid immediately after the aggression was halted in accordance with a plan drawn up for this purpose, based on a priority system. Top priority was given to lighting homes; then streets; and then installations of vital importance to citizens such as hospitals, drinking water stations, heavy water [al-miyah al- thaqilah] stations, mills, ovens, and others.

The minister said that 10 governorates in addition to the city of Baghdad are now being supplied with electricity by the national grid. These are the governorates of Ninawah, Salah al-Din, al-Anbar, Diyala, al-Ta'mim, Irbil, Karbala', Babil, Wasit, and al-Qadisiyah. Al-Sulaymaniyah and al-Basrah Governorates are being supplied with electricity through 100-megawatt [mw] generators not linked to the national grid. The remaining four governorates—al-Najaf, Dahuk, Dhi Qar, and Maysan—will be linked to the national grid before the middle of this month.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di added that the current plan of the electrical sector aims to increase the overall electrical capacity by early July to approximately 2,650 mw, 50 percent of the peak load for summer last year in Iraq, which was 5,100 mw.

The minister reviewed the capacity that the ministry's agencies seek to attain by the end of this year. He said that the capacity hoped for this month is in the vicinity of 1,200 mw, 2,100 mw next month, 3,100 mw in early July, 3,500 mw in August, and 4,500 mw by the end of the year. He added that the ministry is trying to secure the necessary electrical capacity for irrigation projects in al-Jazirah and Wasit by mid-May and for the rice-growing areas in al-Najaf and al-Qadisiyah by early June.

Agricultural and horticultural projects on the outskirts of Baghdad and central governorates have started receiving power supplies at 50 percent capacity.

The minister said that as of next month, industrial projects will begin receiving electricity in sequence according to their importance.

The minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister explained that the electricity sector reconstruction plan depends on available domestic capabilities. He said that the availability of additional capabilities from abroad will shorten the time required for returning the electricity sector in the country to its pre-aggression condition.

Electricity and energy experts and specialists will hold three days of discussions on power station reconstruction programs in the fields of damage assessment, specifying treatment options, selection of the best option, methods of implementation, network programming, execution timetables, and plans for the reconstruction of carrier grids with capacities of 400 kilovolts and 132 kilovolts and power distribution networks in Baghdad and the governorates.

The participants will also discuss plans for the reconstruction of communications networks in the electricity field. They will also discuss the role of resources coordination bureaus, data bases, and other supplementary factors in the implementation of reconstruction campaigns. Also to be discussed will be the expertise acquired during the implementation of these projects and the role of industrial sectors, including the public, mixed, and private sectors, as well as the role of citizens in general. Participants will also discuss rationalizing power distribution and consumption.

The seminar is aimed at enabling the Ministries of Industry and Military Industrialization and Oil and other sectors to exploit all available efforts and resources. The aim is to have all quarters, from home and abroad, contribute to the reconstruction of the electricity sector. This is to allow this basic service to return to normal.

The seminar aims to provide accurate information about the capabilities and resources available to competent quarters that can contribute to the reconstruction campaign in this vital sector. This is so these quarters can take part as soon as possible in reconstruction in an organized and planned manner and in accordance with their capabilities and the level of sophistication and specialization required by some operations, while maintaining quality and efficiency of implementation.

The participants in the seminar will highlight the role of preplanning. They will also highlight other aspects of coordination during the mobilization of efforts and available resources to meet the needs of engineering operations upon implementation.

The first session of the seminar dealt with the lessons drawn from the experiment of reconstructing refineries in Iraq. These lessons were reviewed by the director general of the al-Dawrah oil refinery

The seminar also dealt with the expertise acquired by the resources coordination bureaus at the military industrialization establishment.

Paper Comments on Khamene'i's 'Obscene' Speech

JN0205095691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses disapproval at the obscene 1 May speech delivered by Khamene'i in Tehran yesterday.

In a commentary today, the paper says that after they solidly failed to capitalize on the second chapter of the U.S.-Zionist- Atlantic aggression against Iraq, Khamene'i and his retinue were so resentful and bitter that they lost their balance.

This guide, says the paper, is the person who needs guidance most. While he strongly attacks the United States, he and his retinue beg and run after the great Satan for assistance and gifts. How can this misguided guide reconcile these two positions, asks the paper?

It will do Khamene'i no good to use revolutionary terms against the Americans to cover up for his regime's relations with them and with the Zionists—relations that started before Irangate and are still continuing, says the paper.

AL-JUMHURIYAH recalls what an informed observer has said: "We now have experience in the way these covert liars in Iran think and act." It is known that the Iranians have different intelligence levels, but Khamene'i lacks the cleverness and skill needed for this game. If Khamene'i is using his failure, not intelligence, however, then let him hit his head against the nearest rock; Iraq has recorded the most wonderful pages of steadfastness in history.

The paper adds: Let Khamene'i and others search history's records that go back thousands of years and tell us which country confronted an evil aggression for eight years and was subjected to a most ferocious aggression launched by 30 countries.

If they find any country other than Iraq, and any leadership other than that of brave, struggling, honorable leader Saddam Husayn, then let them come and blame

us. But if they find no other country than Iraq and its glorious leadership, then let the rock break their horns, and let them go to hell.

RCC Official, Minister Awarded Master's Degrees

JN2804070091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The Staff College today awarded Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, defense minister; master's degrees in military sciences, and the title staff officer.

This took place at a ceremony held by the college this morning. The dean of higher studies decorated the RCC vice chairman and the defense minister with staff officers insignia. The college commander delivered a speech saying that the college takes pride in this occasion, which coincides with the Iraqis' celebrations marking the birthday anniversary of leader President Saddam Husayn.

A number of cabinet ministers, the army chief of staff, and a number of military officials attended the ceremony.

Al-Basrah Airport Ready To Receive Flights

JN0105112891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1104 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] Al-Basrah, 1 May (INA)—Al-Basrah International Airport has completed preparations to receive international and domestic flights after having repaired what was destroyed by the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression.

The INA correspondent in the city of cities [al-Basrah] said that work is under way to secure telecommunications between the airport's control tower and other airports to facilitate the movement of passenger aircraft and organize their flights. [passage omitted]

Workers Cable Saddam on May Day

JN0105203491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—Iraqi workers have renewed the pledge to do their utmost to enhance Iraq's march in all production fields.

In a cable to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn at the conclusion of celebrations marking May Day today, the workers said that the courageous militant stand of the Iraqi people was the true embodiment of the noble principles and humane traits of the Iraqi people, who had demonstrated a heroic confrontation of the 30-state aggression against the civil and cultural institutions of our great Iraq.

Palestinian Struggle Front Cables Saddam

JN0105202891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has stated that history will not forget the treasonous rulers who conspired against their people.

In a cable to President Saddam Husayn on his birthday, the front added: History will record for you the legend of your confrontation and steadfastness in defense of the Arab nation's dignity and pride.

It explained that the bravery of President Saddam Husayn has toppled the conspiracy aimed at undermining Iraq and its unity.

Department Repairing Damaged Archaeological Sites

JN0105203091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—The Archaeology and Heritage Department has embarked on efforts to repair what can be repaired of the ruins and archaeological sites of the Sumerian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Acadian, and Islamic civilizations that came under the rancorous U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic bombardment.

The department has also begun efforts to maintain and rehabilitate statues and historical and archaeological pieces, some of which were pillaged, burned, or destroyed by those who came from across the borders to obliterate Iraq's civilization and its glorious and noble history. [passage omitted]

USSR's Bessmertnykh To Arrive 10 May

TA0105172291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh will come to Israel on 10 May. This was announced minutes ago by a Foreign Ministry spokesman. Bessmertnykh's visit to Israel will be the first by a Soviet foreign minister and brings with it expectations of an upgrading of ties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Sharon Demands Government React to U.S. Move

TA0205073691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 May 91

[Telephone interview with Ari'el Sharon, housing and construction minister, in Washington, by Ya'el Dan and 'Amos Har'el—live]

[Text] [Dan] Mr. Sharon, were you offended [by Secretary Baker's request that Sharon's meeting with U.S. Housing Secretary Jack Kemp be moved to the Israeli Embassy]?
[Sharon] I am not hurt personally. I was invited to Washington not as a private individual but as a cabinet minister—and this is a serious offense to the Israeli Government. Settlement is a cornerstone in Israel's national policy, and he who offends....

[Dan, interrupting] The talk about being an obstacle to peace is meant at you, Mr. Sharon.
[Sharon] He who offends a cabinet member who is in charge of the issue and acts on behalf of the government is seriously offending the Israeli Government and the State of Israel. In my opinion, this was a sort of warning to Israel, saying: If you do not comply with our demands, this is what we will do to you. This event is stronger than all the soothing words now coming from Washington. A warning was issued, and it was done rudely. Let me reiterate, I was not hurt personally. In my opinion, the Israeli Government must respond to his offense at once and resolutely, or risk looking like a defenseless satellite country, which could affect our ability to conduct political negotiations in the future. No independent country with dignity would stand for such humiliation.

[Dan] How should Israel react to the message conveyed through you?
[Sharon] Do you mean what I have just said?

[Dan] One gets the impression—and I think you explicitly said as much—that the message to Israel is something along the lines of: Gentlemen, if you do not budge we will act in ways that will not be very pleasant for you. What they have in mind is the settlement issue and other disputed matters. The question is: How should the Israeli Government react to such a message?
[Sharon] First of all, there must be a reaction to the incident, which I think is unprecedented.

[Dan] How do you expect the government to react?
[Sharon] As the sovereign government of an independent country and as a democratic regime should react in such cases.
[Dan] To be more explicit, what sort of reaction do you expect?
[Sharon] The same reaction used in such cases.
[Dan] Tell us what it is, please.
[Sharon] Those dealing with such issues know exactly how to react.

[Har'el] Do you expect the prime minister to send an immediate message to the Americans on the issue?
[Sharon] I think there is nothing more to add to what I have said. The problem is not the type of message or its format, but the treatment given Israel and its official representatives and the impact of such behavior on our ability to guard Israel's national interests in the future. We are a democratic country, and we belong to a part of the world that takes pride in its democracy. Any person can express his views, and he does not necessarily have to support the position of this or another head of state—however friendly his country may be. All Israelis want peace, and I am one of those who want and believe in peace. But in my opinion, peace must be of such a nature as to allow Israel to live safely in its country. We must insist on this postion, and that is exactly what I do.

[Dan] Mr. Sharon, you are not the first Israeli minister to visit Washington these days. I believe no other minister has been granted such a reception. I would like to ask you what may be a tough question: Do you yourself or your views—unintentionally, of course—not sabotage the interests of the ministry you are in charge of? After all, you went to Washington on behalf of the Housing and Construction Ministry, which is seeking guarantees for loans, financial support, and U.S. aid to build houses for immigrants. The fact is that a minister like yourself cannot deliver the goods today.
[Sharon] In my opinion, it takes a great deal of audacity to argue against me that I sabotage national Israeli interests in any way; it takes much more than audacity to say such a thing. One need only look at the treachery and willingness to act against the country displayed by numerous Israelis who are running around and suggesting to the administration that it pressure Israel. In my opinion, this is a very unhealthy and even pathological phenomenon. Our national issues take precedence over everything else.

[Dan] Minister Sharon, I would like to ask you a practical question. If Baker fails in his mission, President Bush himself will step into the process. He has already met with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, and our issue may very well be handed over to the United Nations. Are you not apprehensive about such a development?
[Sharon] I think that peace can be attained in the Middle East, but the way they are going about it is wrong. What must be done to attain peace in the Middle East is to bring the two countries that today owe the most to the United States—Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—to the negotiating table, as early as next week.

[Dan] You are not answering my question, Mr. Sharon. I asked you whether you are not apprehensive about what might happen to Israel if the political process is handed over to the United Nations or to President Bush. After all, we know very well what happens when a U.S. President decides to take matters into his own hands.

[Sharon] We are a country that is morally obliged to protect the life of all its citizens. The problem is not whether something is handed over to somebody else; we need not panic. We should demand today—and this partially answers your question—to embrace a process that can really bring about peace. I believe peace can be attained—albeit with great effort—but not by the path we are being urged and induced to tread. It is only legitimate that in a democratic country people should voice their views. Ultimately, Israel's position will be the one that will be presented to the negotiators by the prime minister. That is how things are done in a democratic country. It is legitimate to voice one's opinions during negotiations. This is how things are done, and this is what each and every one of us should do.

[Dan] Minister Sharon, I thank you very much. I am sure you will be granted a warmer reception when you return to Israel.

[Sharon] Thank you.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 2 May carries another interview with Minister Sharon by Washington correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami. Asked about the chances of a regional conference, Sharon says: "Nothing stands a chance if the Americans keep coming to Israel and urging it to make further concessions. That is not the way to promote things. [Words indistinct] that the regional conference—exactly as described by the prime minister—is a good idea. This would be a ceremonial conference enabling the beginning of direct negotiations, but under no circumstances whatsoever would it be an ongoing conference. I stated my opinion loud and clear that within such a conference there is no room for a separate Palestinian delegation on behalf of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza."

[Asked whether in view of the fact that it is displeased with its settlement policy, the U.S. Administration might not give Israel a hard time when it asks the United States to underwrite loans to build homes for immigrants, Sharon says: "The United States is well aware of the current situation in the Soviet Union and of the dangers threatening Jews. It will realize that every possible effort must be made not to allow the recurrence of errors committed on the eve of World War II, when Jews could have been saved but were not. Based on this fact, as well as on the fact that Israel is a stable democracy and a genuine friend of the United States, I would say that I believe the aid must be extended."]

Aide Sees No Reaction

TA0205090691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 2 May 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Razi Barqay—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Barqay] You have probably received a report about a serious incident in Washington with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon and about some tough statements by the State Department spokesperson on behalf of Secretary Baker. Has the Prime Minister's Office issued a reaction?
[Ben-Aharon] No reaction has been issued. The United States is entitled to treat its high-level guests as it pleases. I have heard that journalists attending the briefing by the State Department spokesperson were astonished that a friendly democratic country whose citizens criticize another democratic country should prevent a visitor from the latter from holding an official meeting with his host and counterpart. As said, this is the United States' own business.

[Barqay] Minister Sharon said today that this is not a personal matter but a serious blow to Israel's sovereignty and dignity. He actually threw the ball into your court, the Prime Minister's Office.
[Ben-Aharon] I do not know about it, and I do not think this is an issue worthy of discussion. Our relations with the United States are known, profound, and wide-ranging. I think we would not have behaved the same way toward a visitor from a friendly democratic country and ally, whatever our criticism. After all, we have ministers from all over the world visiting our country. They meet people who are avowed enemies of the State of Israel, people known to be sympathizers of terror organizations under our very roof, but we do not protest or do anything. I think this should be the characteristic approach of an open and democratic regime such as ours.

[Barqay] Does the prime minister intend to lodge a protest or react in any way to the humiliation inflicted on Minister Sharon, and through him, on the Israeli Government?
[Ben-Aharon] No. I do not think the event should be described as humiliation for the Israeli Government, because I am not sure there was a U.S. intention to offend the Israeli Government or the State of Israel. Nevertheless, as I said, I think this is not the kind of behavior we would have adopted.

[Barqay] I asked whether the prime minister intends to react or lodge a protest.
[Ben-Aharon] I have not heard anything on the subject from the prime minister.

[Barqay] I infer from your remarks that your intention, and perhaps also that of the prime minister, is to keep the entire issue at a low profile or even to sweep it under the carpet.

[Ben-Aharon] I have said all that needs to be said on the matter, both with regard to the personal level, as well as my own assessment about the behavior called for in such cases. I think the matter should be left alone.

[Barqay] Perhaps you can elaborate on another question. What is it with Minister Sharon that arouses such antagonism in the United States?
[Ben-Aharon] I think you had better address such a question to the Americans, because I do not know what exactly about our construction and housing minister outrages them so much. After all, he is a member of the Israeli Cabinet in charge of a specific issue. Perhaps they resent him for matters that do not directly pertain to his job as minister of construction and housing. Therefore, I would think that the question would be better addressed to a U.S. representative or to the U.S. Government.

[Barqay] I am addressing the question to the right-hand man of the prime minister, who has on more than one occasion been hurt by Minister Sharon's provocative public statements.
[Ben-Aharon] I have never been hurt by any of Minister Sharon's statements. I am not the target for such statements on the part of any minister. I say we have discussed the matter more than enough. I think we should look at the important issues in a broader perspective, and let personal issues aside.

[Barqay] One of those important issues is the upcoming visit to Israel of the Soviet foreign minister. Do we know whether he will bring along the resumption of diplomatic relations?
[Ben-Aharon] We do not have any information that he is bringing along an announcement about the resumption of relations. I suppose that the Soviet Union, which conducts itself on such matters in what it believes is the proper way for a superpower, will take a step-by-step approach. The minister will come here and will listen to what we have to say about the peace process and the auspices to be provided by the two superpowers to the regional conference we would like to hold. I hope that then, at some later stage, a decision will be made about the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

[Barqay] Do the voices coming from Washington, both on the Sharon and other affairs, not turn on a red light in the Prime Minister's Office that we might be blamed for the failure?
[Ben-Aharon] Only this morning it was reported from Washington that the U.S. Administration has no intention of blaming anybody in the Middle East for the failure, if failure it is. Therefore, I suggest that we do not get ahead of ourselves and start getting fidgety over the possibility that we might be blamed for something.

[Barqay] Then what is the next step after the Soviet foreign minister comes here? Do we know when Baker will again visit Israel?
[Ben-Aharon] No, we are actually waiting to hear something because we were told that he would be coming for another visit. I would imagine that this visit will be important and significant, because up until now he only listened to the sides in a bid to get to the bottom of their positions and their leeway to make concessions in the negotiations. Now he will try to bridge the gaps. If he concludes that the gaps remain too wide and cannot be bridged, I suppose other ways will be sought.

Shamir—U.S. Action 'Inappropriate'

TA0205104591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The treatment accorded Construction and Housing Minister Ar'iel Sharon was inappropriate and abnormal. This was said today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, but his statements implied that Israel will not react in any official manner. Relations with the United States are good despite the differences. Our correspondent Sarit Mikha'eli reports:

[Begin recording] [Mikha'eli] Relations between Israel and the United States are good despite the differences of opinion, and I hope that the political process will continue. I see no reason not to press forward and I believe that we will achieve good results. This statement was made today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. As for the treatment received by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon in the United States, Shamir said:

[Shamir] I think that the attitude shown to him was inappropriate.

[Mikha'eli] Will Israel react in any way?

[Shamir] Well, we have said that this constituted what I would call abnormal behavior.

[Mikha'eli] Commenting on Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh's impending visit to Israel, Shamir said that we are very happy to receive him, and are sorry that the visit is so short, as we will not have time to discuss everything. He added, I hope we will be able to reach some kind of agreement with him. Shamir made these statements to journalists after visiting the international book fair in Binyaney Ha'uma. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 2 May reports that "Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein this morning lodged a protest with the U.S. ambassador over the way in which the U.S. Administration comported itself with regard to the meeting between Minister Sharon and his U.S. counterpart. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Rubinstein's protest was lodged at the prime minister's instructions. Prime Minister Shamir believes that due to the fact that Mr. Sharon is an Israeli cabinet member, criticism of the sort displayed yesterday is inappropriate."]

Greek Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit

TA0105135891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Greek foreign minister arrived today for a three-day visit. He was received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Foreign Minister David Levi, who said it was a very important visit, especially in view of the great improvement in relations between the two countries. He said that Israel wants ties to improve even further. Minister Levi said the Middle East political process would be the focus of their talks.

Invites Levi to Athens

TA0105175291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Greek Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras is in Israel. This is another stage in Greece's attempts to improve relations with Israel. His tour started off with a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial. Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon was there:

[Begin recording] [Ayalon] A get-acquainted visit and an opportunity to assess each other—that was how Foreign Ministry sources described the visit of Greek Foreign Minister Adonios Samaras. The Foreign Ministry sees importance in the very fact that the visit is taking place. Although Greece has changed its attitude to Israel and established diplomatic relations with Jerusalem, it has not discontinued its support for the Palestinians. The arrival of the Greek foreign minister in Israel, therefore, signifies a change and a greater readiness to understand Israel's position. The countries have common interests. They both want to expand their commercial relations with the EC and improve their economies. Consequently, the two ministers decided to increase cooperation in numerous areas, as Foreign Minister David Levi said.

[Levi] In addition to this, there are bilateral issues, and we agreed to set up teams of experts who will discuss economic cooperation and joint work on research and development projects, as well as increasing the level of tourism between the two countries and other matters.

[Ayalon] One sign of Greece's growing moderation is its desire to improve relations with Israel. That desire was made known when the Greek Foreign Minister stated that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 should serve as a framework for peace arrangements in the region.

[Samaras, in English] Well, as I said, I think that 242 and 338 is the framework that applies for the Greek position for the problems here.

[Ayalon] Now we only have to wait for Foreign Minister Levi's trip to Greece, a visit that was decided upon today during the talks. [end recording]

Confers With Shamir

TA0105194691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the international sponsorship given to the talks between Israel and the Arab countries must be formal, and it must only be in effect for the first meeting. Israel, Shamir stressed, will agree to an opening session designed to lead to direct negotiations.

Mr. Shamir pointed out that because for some reason Europe supports the PLO, Israel has doubts regarding Europe's participation in the meeting. Israel, nevertheless, is willing to discuss the matter with the Europeans, but it expects them to improve relations with Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the prime minister made those statements to Greek Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras. The Greek minister expressed the hope that his country would be able to help further the peace process in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister David Levi met earlier with his Greek counterpart and accepted his invitation to visit Athens.

Shamir on Talks With Jordan, Regional Meeting

TA0105154591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] U.S. success in starting negotiations between Israel and Jordan would be a great achievement and one we eagerly anticipate. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made that statement today in a meeting with Democratic Senator John Kerry, who is currently visiting Israel.

The prime minister expressed confidence that Secretary of State Baker would find a way to lead the peace process forward and that Baker would continue to pursue his efforts.

Shamir reiterated that Israel insists on a one-time regional meeting, without any follow-up, because if there are continued meetings, the Arabs will not sit down to direct negotiations.

Ministry Confirms Territories Construction Plans

TA0205093191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 91 p A3

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry has confirmed that its construction plans in the territories correspond with yesterday's report in HA'ARETZ, but says that the pace of construction depends on the government policy. In response to the data published yesterday, Yehuda Me'iri, director of the ministry's Tel Aviv and Central District Department, said yesterday that the figures, which are being made for every site in Israel where construction is planned, represent a professional program.

The figures referring to construction in Judaea and Samaria deal with future work, but the pace of work depends on government approval, and in theory this can take a long time, he said. This was the reaction of the Construction and Housing Ministry to the data concerning the expected scope of building in east Samaria, which would bring an additional 88,000 Jews to the area.

These facts also appear in documents sent to Me'iri by Hayim Zimmer, in charge of public institutions and complementary development in the ministry, that have reached Knesset Member Charlie Biton and his assistant, Hayim Hanegbi.

Yesterday Biton revealed two additional documents that Me'iri sent to Zimmer over the past several weeks. One, which deals with the settlement of Tzufim, states that there is a plan for 1,200 housing units, but, due to the addition of territory and the rise in populace, there is a need to update the plan to 2,000 housing units. The document adds: "The update is being made due to the urgency in building for immigrant absorption."

Another document, which deals with Ari'el, also says that the data presented in it have been updated "due to the urgent need to build for immigrant absorption." This document, which explicitly speaks of urgent construction work for immigrants, was written on 26 March 1991, between the first and the second visits here by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Knesset Member Charlie Biton yesterday sent a letter to the prime minister in which he says that these documents prove that the Construction and Housing Ministry is engaged in construction work in the territories for the absorption of immigrants. Biton adds: "One of two conclusions is possible here: either you share Minister Sharon's deception of public opinion in Israel and the world, or you are, knowingly and with full awareness, covering up for him. It has already been said that you can deceive some of the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."

Rightists Threaten To Quit Over Peace Talks

TA0105145091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Tehiya faction, together with several Knesset members [MK's] from the Tzomet, NRP [National Religious Party], and Moledet factions, today informed the prime minister that if there was any deviation regarding the regional conference, they would recommend that their party institutions hold a discussion on whether to remain in the coalition. Our correspondent Eytan Almog reported that during a meeting this afternoon to discuss the recent political moves, the participants decided that they would oppose any elements of an international conference in the planned regional meeting. The session was attended by MK's from Tehiya, Rabbi Yitzhaq Levi from the NRP, Yo'ash Tzidon from Tzomet, and representatives of Moledet.

MK Ge'ula Kohen told our correspondent that this meeting constitutes an announcement to the prime minister that the right wing is already standing by the door ready to bolt the coalition. If the government deviates from its stated position, the right wing will open the door and leave.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 1 May adds that the right-wing parties threatened that they "will leave the government if the opening session of the regional meeting goes beyond a one-time event."]

Minister Opposes 'Territory-for-Money' Plan

TA0105150991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpts] Yitzhaq Moda'i said that Israel would not be prepared to accept a formula proposing territories for peace or territory for money. It will not, therefore, change its policy line, even if that makes it more difficult to raise the funds needed for immigrant absorption. Moda'i made the remarks in response to a motion by Knesset Member Gad Ya'aqobi, who attacked the government for its lack of an economic plan and an immigrant absorption plan. [passage omitted]

[Begin Moda'i recording] We are not prepared to accept the formula of territories for peace and even less a formula of territory for money. You can conclude whatever you wish from that. It is highly reasonable to assume that that will make it more difficult for us to raise funds. [end recording]

Mediation Role in Soviet-RSA Contacts Reported

TA2404130691 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Apr 91 p A1, A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Israel has secretly helped the Soviet Union establish contacts with South Africa. Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday told MA'ARIV that, during the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov last week in London, the latter thanked his Israeli counterpart and expressed his appreciation for Israel's contribution toward the furthering of relations between Moscow and Pretoria.

Johannes Viljoen, South African ambassador to Israel, yesterday confirmed to MA'ARIV that in the next few weeks the Soviet Union will establish an interests office in the Austrian Embassy in Pretoria. South Africa will open a legation with the same status in the Austrian Embassy in Moscow. Viljoen, however, claimed that he was unaware of any Israeli mediation in the matter.

MA'ARIV has learned that Israel played a fundamental role in establishing contacts between the two countries, and it was Israeli mediation that enabled Pretoria to begin sending economic aid to the USSR.

Viljoen was received yesterday by Shamir to mark the end of his appointment in Israel.

In an interview with MA'ARIV, Viljoen said that relations between Jerusalem and Pretoria had not changed much during the three years of his tenure. He noted that Jerusalem had decided to impose economic sanctions on South Africa, on the eve of his arrival, three years ago. Israel, however, refrained from obviating contracts that were already in force.

Viljoen added that, following the changes recently introduced by the South African Government in its apartheid policies, the EC had decided to lift the sanctions against South Africa, expressing the hope that Israel would soon adopt a similar decision.

17,700 Immigrants Arrive in April

TA0105145991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] April was a peak month for immigration to Israel. Some 55,000 immigrants arrived in Israel in the first third of 1991. Our correspondent Sarit Mikha'eli reports:

Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz forecasts that 25,000 immigrants will now be arriving monthly. He believes immigration has returned to the level of before the Gulf war. Peretz made the remarks in the wake of the encouraging figure of 17,700 immigrants who arrived in April, a record month so far this year. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Decries U.S., Urges 'Jihad'

JN0105121491 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 30 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] The Islamic movement (Muslim Brotherhood) deputies [in the House of Representatives] have issued a statement reviewing our nation's current situation, its fragmentation, and U.S. domination over it. The statement recalls the Islamic position, fundamentals, and tenets. They are:

First: The United States has systematically proven its shameful bias against our Arab and Islamic peoples, as well as its continued support for Zionist aggression against Muslim countries, completely emphasizing that it is the No. 1 enemy of Arabs and Muslims.

Second: The Arab and Islamic peoples will not forget the blood of Iraqi women, children, and the elderly, or that of Jordanian children, women, and men shed on the Baghdad-Amman highway. Time will increase rather than decrease anger with the United States, until that anger explodes to purge the Islamic land of the filth of the U.S. and its agents.

Third: The alleged peace Baker is promising is only a plan to subjugate the Arab and Islamic nations to the world Zionist plots and preoccupy their peoples with the mirage of a peaceful solution. Therefore, we urge our nation—leaders and peoples—not to be deceived by these alleged solutions, which will lead only to illusions.

Fourth: We reject any solution that recognizes an inch of our pure land for the aggression state, and we view the recognition of the Jewish state as a breach of the pledge to God and His messenger and as opposed to loyalty to the blood of the martyrs from the days of Abu-'Ubaydah, Salah al-Din, and Qutuz [ancient Islamic leader] up to the last martyr or wounded of the heroes of the blessed intifadah.

Fifth: The solution that satisfies God and which the Muslims are waiting for is mobilization of the nation for jihad, and unification of its word on Islam doctrine and law, thus advancing it to confront and uproot this danger.

Sixth: The Arab and Muslim peoples are urged to demand their complete freedom in order to effectively participate in making decisions on their crucial issues, especially their central issue in Palestine and their conflict with the enemies of mankind and the assassins of prophets.

Seventh: We denounce the allies' successive crimes against the Iraqi people. We specifically denounce how the United States and the countries of blasphemy exploit the feelings of the Muslim Iraqi people and capitalize on the case of our Kurdish brothers to occupy Iraqi land and divide its people. In our opinion, participating in this or remaining silent about it is an even uglier crime than the aggressive war itself.

In their statement, Muslim Brotherhood deputies stressed that the Muslim nation is able to rise up and proceed with its victorious march, just as it did after all ordeals that befell it whether at the hands of the Crusaders, the Tartars, or other invaders. The invaders' fate, God willing, will be defeat, humiliation, and shame.

Newspaper Chairman Arrested for Foreign 'Contacts'

JN2504170391 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] An official security source has announced that this morning security authorities apprehended Dr. Riyad al-Hurub, chairman of the board of directors of SHIHAN newspaper who is suspected of maintaining contacts with foreign quarters and complicity with them to publish information potentially detrimental and harmful to confidence in economic security as well as impacting on the Petra Bank case now before the courts.

Investigations of those implicated in the case continue.

Further on Army Deployment, Milita Arms Handover

Deployment Completed; No 'Hitch'

NC0105170791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Lebanese Army completed its deployment today without a hitch. The deployment covered Jabal Lubnan, al-Baturn, and al- Kurah. Defense Minister Michel al-Murr stated that the Army completed deploying in accordance with the plan devised by the Army command. He noted that the operation was completed without encountering any obstacles. With this deployment Lebanon has taken a great step forward on the path of peace, on which it embarked when it began implementing the al-Ta'if accord. Al-Murr said that the process will continue in line with the schedule drawn up by the cabinet. The process aims at extending the state's authority and legitimacy throughout Lebanon.

Lebanese Forces Complete Handover

NC0105174391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces handed over Lebanese Army weapons at Halat today. The handover was witnessed by Lebanese Forces Chief of Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik and military committee members Brigadier General Michel Mu'ayki, Colonel 'Atif Tarabay, and Major George Zakhn. Brig. Michel Mu'ayki, chairman of the military committee tasked with receiving the weapons, told reporters that the Lebanese Army had received all its weapons from the Lebanese Forces. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Malik emphasized that the Lebanese Forces' action was the result of their belief in the government; they will continue to support it. He said that the Lebanese Army deployment was completed without a hitch. He stressed that the return of the Lebanese Army weapons was a sincere and voluntary act, adding that more weapons were returned than the Army requested. Malik said:

[Begin recording] [Malik] The deployment in the areas of Kasrawan and Jubyal is a Lebanese Army deployment on Lebanese territory. This is very natural, and the operation was carried out in an excellent fashion. There were no hitches, and we welcome the Army in its area and land.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you think will happen in the next stage?

[Malik] In the next stage, the Lebanese Army will be the sole military authority responsible for the security of Lebanese territory inside and outside the country. The Lebanese Government is the sole authority responsible for the country. We will undertake political action, like all the other political parties authorized to act in Lebanon within the democratic framework.

[Reporter] Is the question of the remaining weapons being discussed?

[Malik] All agreements that have been reached will be implemented. [end recording]

Al-Asad Congratulates Al-Hirawi

NC0105192591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad telephoned President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening to congratulate him on the Lebanese Army deployment. President al-Asad stressed that this step realizes the hopes of Syria, which has long sought Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. President al-Asad expressed the wish that this step will pave the way for dispatching the Lebanese Army to the South to secure the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and to restore Lebanon's sovereignty over all its territory.

Karami: Palestinians No 'Obstacle'

NC2804205391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has said that the Palestinians will not be an obstacle to the second phase of the Lebanese Army deployment in Sidon and Southern Lebanon. He made a distinction between weapons being used by organized groups and random weapons in southern Lebanon. He pointed out that resistance should take place in the occupied territory and not in liberated Lebanese territory. In a statement to the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, he said: We are not brandishing a sword to cut off heads, but want to solve the issue of the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militia weapons through dialogue, amity, non-violence, and with an open mind.

Amal Reports Operation Against Lahd Patrol

NC0205114591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] An explosive charge went off as an agent patrol was passing near (?Mimas) in the South this morning. The explosion destroyed a vehicle and the militias sustained a number of casualties. The Lahd militias acknowledged the operation, saying that one of their vehicles was put out of commission.

In another development, the Amal Movement said today that one of its units detonated an explosive charge as an agent motorized patrol was passing on the Sujud-al-Rayhan road today. The explosion destroyed an armored car and its crew members were killed or wounded.

Afghanistan

Commerce Minister Receives Russian Delegation

LD0105085991 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0443 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Kabul, April 30 BAKHTAR—Zakim Shah, RA [Republic of Afghanistan] minister of commerce met with the delegation of Altay province of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) headed by S. Stepanovich, vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of that province here today.

During the meeting while the deputy commerce minister, chairman of the international relations of the direct assistance department in the Council of Ministers and minister councillor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul were present, matters of mutual interest in the area of commerce between the Altay province of the RSFSR and RA were discussed.

According to another report, the Soviet delegation met with the leadership delegation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries and a number of national traders during the day. Topics relating to the creation of joint stores between the two sides were discussed. Later, the delegation visited a number of factories and big stores in Kabul.

The Altay delegation is currently here to further strengthen economic, commerce and other relations with the Afghan authorities.

The guest delegation had arrived to Kabul on April 9 [date as received] at the invitation of the direct cooperation dept of the Council of Ministers of the RA, for an official visit.

Najibullah Workers Day Message Reviewed

LD0205073591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Kabul, 1 May, BAKHTAR—The state of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] attaches great significance to the contribution of Afghanistan workers and their trade unions for the construction of the country, reads the message of President Najibullah congratulating the international day of workers to all the workers and members of the National Union of Afghanistan Employees.

The state of the RA attaches great significance to the contribution of Afghanistan workers and its trade union for the country's construction and do not refrain from any efforts for ensuring the rights of the country's workers. The enforcement of the Labour Law code and Afghanistan's [word indistinct] to International Labour Organisation are among the effective measures taken by the state of the RA for the restoration of the right of workers and employees in ensuring a just relation between the work and work which has been enshrined in the said law.

Najibullah, president of the RA in his message, has appreciated the achievements of the workers not only in the economic sphere but their participation alongside the armed forces of the RA in the war fronts directly and indirectly.

The message is assuring the workers that the RA state has always been endeavoring to provide them with improved working conditions and to uplift the standards of living of the people in general and those of the workers in particular. However, the historical enemies of the country are desperately trying to keep the flames of war ablaze. The interests of the country calls on [word indistinct] to allow your national unity. [sentence indistinct]

The state of the RA supports and abides by the objectives followed by the International Trade Union Federation [ITUF], defending the rights and the interests of the workers of the world. The ITUF objectives are undoubtedly in conformity with the policy of the RA, the message notes. This policy of the RA state [word indistinct] peace, democracy, progress and social justice. Our workers can attain these objectives with the restoration of peace for the achievement of which everyone of us does our utmost, concludes the message.

India

Shekhar Offers Review of Cases Against Militants

BK0105130291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The prime minister has offered to review the cases against those militants in Punjab, who realized their folly and returned to the national mainstream. Addressing public meetings at Philibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he has asked the state government to ensure that innocent people are not harassed in the drive against secessionist elements.

Criticizing the Congress-I decision not to participate in the elections in Punjab, he said the party wants the present stalemate to continue for reasons best known to it.

CPI-M Reaction

BK0205042891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said that talks with some militant groups of Punjab are continuing and there are prospects of a positive outcome soon. Addressing a series of public meetings at Gorakhpur, Philibhit, and Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh, he, however, declined to give details of the talks, as these might sabotage the process of getting the militants into the democratic fold.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India - Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, says political inconsistency will continue in Punjab, if persons guilty of offenses are brought into the national mainstream. He was reacting to the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar's offer to review the cases of those militants who are willing to take up democratic life. Mr. Surjeet was addressing a press conference at Jullundur yesterday. He said there is an urgent need to provide adequate security arrangements to all the contesting candidates for electioneering in the state. Mr. Surjeet said his party will not start campaigning until full security is ensured. In reply to a question, he said no decision has been taken yet on the issue of a poll alliance with the Janata Dal in Punjab. The CPI-M leader said negotiations are still continuing to work out a joint strategy. Mr. Surjeet pointed out that the recent municipal elections have shown a clear manifestation of the people's disenchantment with the various Akali Dal groups. The people are fed up with the continuing militant activities in the state, he added.

Group Clashes Among Kashmir Terrorists Continue

BK0205034891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] In Kashmir valley, public protests against the militant activities were reported for the third day yesteday. Intergang clashes between terrorist groups also continued. In Srinagar, militants set on fire 17 houses and 35 shops believed to be belonging to the rivals. Militants groups have also said that their members have been kidnapped by the rivals at gunpoint. Two militants were killed in intergang firing at Arigam in Badgam District and Kalarosa in Kupwara District. Militants also exchanged fire in interior areas of Srinagar.

Finance Minister Urges Conservation of Resources

BK0205100691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The finance minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, has ruled out any relaxation in curbs imposed by the Reserve Bank of India on imports. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today on his return from the meeting of the World Bank in Washington and interaction with major donors, Mr. Sinha said efforts will continue to conserve foreign exchange resources. Describing the country's present foreign exchange position as comfortable, Mr. Sinha felt that the new government should go in for a substantial IMF loan to get over the balance of payments crisis.

Opening the annual conference of income tax commissioners in New Delhi today, the finance minister stressed the need to maximize tax revenues and cut down expenditure to meet the present fiscal crisis. He said efforts should be made for additional resource mobilization to correct fiscal imbalances. Mr. Sinha said steps taken so far are not sufficient to overcome the crisis as there is a limit to which expenditure can be pruned. He said measures should be taken without harming the country's economic, social, and political interests. He regretted the shortfall of 1,000 crore rupees in direct tax collections this year and asked the taxmen to analyze the reasons for it.

Larger IMF Loan Proposed

BK0105110691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] India proposes to go in for a larger loan from the Interational Monetary Fund to meet its balance of payments problem aggravated by the Gulf crisis. The finance minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, addressing a press conference in Washington yesterday, announced that New Delhi will be holding official-level discussions with the IMF in this regard. The terms will be negotiated by the newly elected government. The finance minister expressed the hope that interim arrangements with the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and key donors will enable the country to meet the foreign exchange requirements till September.

Earlier, he held talks with the World Bank officials. Addressing the development committee of the bank in Washington, Mr. Sinha said that the concessional assistance to the developing world will be necessary to help reverse the adverse impact of the Gulf war. He told the committee that more resource transfers from the developed to the developing countries are equally important for poverty reduction. He called upon the international financial institutions to take concrete steps in this direction. He also appealed to the committee to open a third window of lending facilities with reduced interest rates to the needy nations.

Venkataraman Returns Home From Foreign Tour

BK0105164291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The president returned to New Delhi this evening after his eight-day state visit to Vietnam and the Philippines. The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar; the three service chiefs, and other dignitaries were present at the airport to receive him.

Earlier, speaking to newspersons in Manila, Mr. R. Venkataraman had said that the Philippines Government has endorsed India's stand on Fiji. He also reiterated India's commitment to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. He said New Delhi does not want a division of the island nation but there should be a certain measure of autonomy to the minorities in Sri Lanka. The president said both Hanoi and Manila have supported India's policy of friendship toward its neighbors. About relations with Nepal and Bangladesh, the president said that these have improved with the restoration of democracy in these countries. However, relations with Pakistan are still not satisfactory.

The president said his Filipino counterpart, Mrs. Corazon Aquino, complimented India on the progress it has made in the fields of agriculture and industry. He said Mrs. Aquino expressed the desire to have greater cooperation between the two countries in these sectors.

Iran

SALAM Claims Several Qom Clerics Executed

NC0105193291 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 1 (AFP)—Several clerics from the holy city of Qom south of here have been executed for membership of a "perverse religious sect," the new newspaper SALAM [said] in its first issue on Wednesday.

The daily which gave no details on the names or numbers of the clerics or on the sect to which they belonged, said the death sentences had been approved by the Council of Guardians—Moslem jurists charged with judging religious figures.

The paper said the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mohammad Yazdi, did not deny reports of the clerics' executions, in recent press interview.

Deputy Assails 'Counterrevolutionary' Values

LD0105095591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0520 GMT 1 May 91

[Pre-agenda remarks by Rowhani-Nia, Majles deputy for Sepidan, at Majles session in Tehran on 1 May—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] It is felt today that the values of the revolution are fading and being replaced by the dead and forgotten counterrevolutionary values. Up to yesterday there were complaints about the failure to observe proper hejab [Islamic dress code for women], but today we have to complain about complete lack of hejab and immorality. No doubt you have seen that today women are seen in cars along the roads without any hair cover. Today disrespect for hejab is observed at of housing quarters and shops of the districts, and the culprits seem to feel so safe and secure. It rings an alarm bell to see that 10 and 12 year old girls appear relaxed without any hair cover in the streets and alleyways. Unfortunately, I blame the merger of the law enforcement forces at this juncture.

In some city streets today one can hear the decadent songs and music of the pre-revolution era. Records are sold with ugly pictures of the singers. There is no one to question why. Why is this not banned? The fact of the matter is that the new climate is worrying all the basijis and the committed forces of the revolution. This must be reconsidered seriously. It is true to say that we are influenced by those who have graduated from the United States.

Changing the clocks is also not welcomed by the nation and does not agree with the public taste. No doubt this reminds everyone of the bitter memories of the past [when the shah introduced summertime]. The rumor that an extra weekend day will be introduced on Saturdays, instead of Thursdays, does not fit in our society at all. I must say if that were to happen, one must expect all the old decadent customs to return. If some individuals think that we have to accept the new world order, even if it means compromise with the United States, I demand here that 70 volumes of "The Documents of the Espionage Den" [U.S. Embassy documents] should be read again to make one realize how the Great Satan employs various satanic policies to influence nations and their revolutions. [passage omitted]

Deputy Denounces Creation of Factions, Divisions

LD0105093891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0510 GMT 1 May 91

[Pre-agenda remarks by Afradizeh, Majles deputy for Nowshahr, at Majles session in Tehran on 1 May—live]

[Excerpts] The criminal United States dispatched forces to the Persian Gulf with the excuse of liberating Kuwait. It committed the biggest crime of the century against the innocent people of Iraq, massacred the Muslims, and destroyed their resources. At the time the leader of the Islamic revolution said: Bush is the most hated person in the eyes of the Islamic nations. The traitor of the two holy places, Fahd, is a partner in his abhorrent crime. As the United States' host and hireling, Fahd is even worse than Bush. And the United Nations and its human rights organization, which have been created to endorse U.S. domination and bullying, share the crime for remaining silent and maintaining their silence in the face of the bloodsucking and insane Saddam's massacre of the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately in Iran today, a love of personal interests has created divisions and factions. Each faction accuses the other of being against the imam's line and the Velayat-e Faqih [vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult]. They even go so far as to accept some individuals, who do not even believe in Imam 'Ali, but are clever enough to side with a particular faction on the surface, as Hezbollah and supporters of the imam's line and of Velayat-e Faqih. There are even individuals from rich families, whose close and distant relatives have not heard of the revolution and have not sacrificed for the revolution; but are accepted as committed hezbollahis and supporters of the deprived. On the other hand, the truely deprived and suffering individuals, who have undergone torture in the SAVAK [shah's secret police] prisons and have become martyrs, are discarded as capitalists, followers of U.S.-style Islam, and opponents of the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult], just because they are not in any particular faction. Many sincere, selfless, committed, and experienced individuals are deprived of key positions for failing to join a particular

faction. This is contrary to justice and will never last. I can see that in mosques, public platforms, and even in the Majles the biggest onslaught is launched against those who were the sincere disciples of the imam [Khomeyni] and his friends and assistants. They played sensitive roles in the victory and continuation of the revolution. I ask the speaker of the Majles, who himself was a friend of the imam and played a role in the revolution victory, why some in the Majles today refer to our late imam's remarks as words of the ossified minds. There are even those who are confronting the teachings of the imam's philosophy. Once the imam's son drank water in a bowl and these individuals rinsed the bowl several times before using it again! Are such individuals part of the revolution and to have key positions? [passage omitted]

Khamene'i's Labor Day Speech to Workers, Teachers

LD0105160791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 1 May 91

[Address by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to workers and teachers in Tehran on 1 May, Labor Day, and on the eve of Teachers' Day—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to all dear brothers and sisters, workers, teachers, students, pupils, and officials. May God grant his blessings and grace to all of you dear ones who are the hearts, hands, and minds of the Islamic society. [passage omitted]

Workers and teachers should know that they are among the essential pillars of society. They should know how valuable they are, and how effective their presence is to the destiny of a nation. [passage omitted] If Iranian workers today perform their work with initiative, creativity, responsibility, and a sense that they are doing a good deed and laboring to build society for the nation, then we will achieve the objective of neither East nor West, which means independence of the great powers. If not, we will not. So you see that one of the great slogans of the revolution, that is, the independence of the nation and country—the very same thing that our enemies in the world oppose—depends on the existence, efforts, and labor of workers, as well as on the good feeling of the workers themselves. [passage omitted]

The same thing applies to teachers. We said that an Iranian, a Muslim should stand on his own feet and break the chains of slavery that they have tied to his neck and felt for 200-300 years. They should dismantle this wrong colonialist culture that claimed Iranians can do nothing. [passage omitted] This is the culture that the colonialists imposed and enforced on Muslim and colonized nations, including our nation, saying: You can do nothing; we are the ones who have to build your industries, reform your agriculture, set down your school curricula, and control your government as well. This is the same humiliation that was brought upon this country by the Pahlavi and Qajar dynasties—God's curse be upon them—they imposed this humiliation on our nation and set us back 100 hundred years. If we want this humiliation to be removed and the brilliant talent of the Iranians to be placed at the disposal of the interests of Iran and Islam, this can only be possible through the training of an efficient work force. Who will do this training? [passage omitted] Teachers of course. This is the role of teachers.

In the Islamic Republic anyone who is doing work, meaning work in a general sense—cultural, economic work, correct and beneficial service—they should know that they are doing a good deed; they are working for God; their lives have not been wasted. [passage omitted] This is what Islamic culture is about.

Unfortunately, this is not what we observe in some of our arts or radio and television programs, when people feel that their lives and work have been wasted after 30 years of work. This is not an Islamic culture; this is not a Koranic culture. If you have worked properly for 30 years you will have advanced this society. You will have added to the accumulation of your favors with God for 30 years if you have worked properly and you will have improved yourself for 30 years. Islamic and Koranic culture consists of this. These are the concepts that should be reflected in our arts, in our plays, films, cinema, and on radio. I do not know when our official arts establishments want to familiarize themselves with the depth of Islamic thought. They write, perform, and talk incorrectly within the contexts of the arts. Why? This is not Islamic reasoning. Islam says that if you workers, teachers, and all who work well, diligently, conscientiously, and responsibly for the progress of society, then every hour of your work is a good deed done before God. [passage omitted]

This Islamic society is moving toward a goal. This goal and this path have different stages. We have finished one or two stages. The stage of fighting against internal agents of arrogance has been completed successfully; but the task is not finished. It was a half-way house. We passed it.

One stage was to crush the imposed, instigated, hostile invasion which lasted for eight years. The whole world was behind Iraq, so that perhaps they could defeat the revolution. That stage was also concluded proudly and victoriously. We should not think that the task is complete; it is not.

One stage was for us to become known to world public opinion as a struggling, honest, innocent nation with lofty goals. That stage was passed and the world became familiar with it. Those are stages in the middle of the course. [passage omitted]

We have made progress in all stages, thank God. There was some talk by certain people, as if they had just woken up and did not know what had been happening in

this country. They kept talking about all the problems and miseries during the monarchical regime, believing that this nation is the same as the other. That was a regrettable mistake that some people unfortunately make. They sit arround and talk as if this is a dead nation, as if this is not the same nation that defeated the United States, the Soviet Union, NATO, and all the arrogant forces behind Saddam. [crowd chants: "God is great"; "Khamene'i is the leader"; "Death to America"; "Death to hypocrites and Saddam"; "Death to Israel"]

Do not think that our past successes cover all our goals. No, a great deal should bo done in this country. A great deal of earnest and sympathetic effort and initiative is needed in this Islamic land. Our enemies are still lying in wait for the nation to tire of Islam so that they can attack, for this nation to lose its faith so that they can rush it from all sides. The enemies of Islam have not been idle. They were beaten. This nation and the imam of this nation repeatedly slapped the United States and the other bully boys. But they have not lost heart. When they see that they cannot separate this nation from its faith, its Islam, its revolution, and its imam, and cannot take away its slogans—in fact, there is no way they could do that—they say things in the world, such as: The Iranian Government is pro-West; it has openned the door to the West, as it were: and so forth. That is to weaken the morale of the nations of the world. It is to dishearten and dissappoint Muslims in the remotest parts of the world who have set their hearts on this great and brave nation, so that they will say: Oh, so Iran has become like that; and they will lose heart. But they are mistaken.

The United States is hostile with all its being toward the Iranian nation and the goals of that nation. We know this. [crowd shouts: "Death to America"] This nation has said decisively what it had to say about Palestine; the United States bears a grudge about this. This nation has said its piece about oppressive U.S. hegemony and has stood steadfast. The United States and global arrogance are upset about this. This nation has proved its ultimate and powerful bond and adherence to Islam and the Koran. The United States and all the enemies of Islam have been badly wounded by this. They thus conduct propaganda against us and strive against us. They are opposed to any place where the banner of Islam is raised. Just look at Iraq right now.

Look at the oppressed Iraqi Shiis of south Iraq. Of course, our brother Kurds in northern Iraq are oppressed, defeated and wretched. We should assist them; we know our duty and have helped so far and will do so afterward too; no question about it. The powers are waging their propaganda everywhere, and it is only propaganda—talk without action. To date, the amount of aid that has been supplied by the world, despite all the publicity, does not amount to 1 percent of what these people need. The nation and government of Iran have rolled up their sleeves and are assisting them bravely, and they will continue to help. It is an Islamic duty, and it is not done for anyone's sake.

But compare this propaganda to what concerns the oppressed Muslim people of Iraq. Why? What is the reason? Are not the Shiites of Basra, Najaf, Amrah, Nasiriyah, Samawa, and Karbala under pressure? Did not he [Saddam] who is worse than Hajjaj Bin Yusuf [governor under the Ummayyads reputed for his harshness] oppress those people on an unprecedented scale? Did he not imprison their Marja-e Taqlid [source of emulation, most senior clergyman in Shii hierarchy; reference to Kho'i] and bring pressure to bear upon him? Did he not destroy holy shrines? Did he not deliver so many blows to the ideas and feelings of that nation, injuring them? Why does not one in the world utter a word? Why is no one thinking about them? Why does no one take any notice of the scholastic community of Najaf and the most senior clergymen, ulema, and scholars, and the sacred shrines of the lord of the faithful and Husayn Ibn Ali—God's peace be upon them—which are the sites of the hopes and love of millions of Muslims? Why? Because they know that the banner of Islam and the clergy and religion are raised there. This is what they oppose. It is religion that they oppose. You should know that if God Almighty had allowed the Pahlavi executioner, the wretched, miserable Mohammad Reza, to repeat 100 times his performance on 17 Shahrivar [8 September 1979] and 15 Khordad [5 June 1963] and kill thousands upon thousands of these people, the United States and those false human rights organizations would have uttered not one serious word against him or would have done nothing. They have nothing against the massacre of human beings who have revolted to attain their religious goals; they encourage it. Why is that? Because of the depth of their enmity toward religion, and Islam in particular. Why? Because Islam is in the service of the oppressed masses; because Islam opposes bullying; because Islam opposes the rule of the United States and its like; because Islam is for the independence of oppressed nations. That is why they are hostile.

The Iranian nation should learn two lessons from past successes. First, those successes are achieved through resistance, not surrender. Anyone who yields to the superpowers is abased. If he is already low he will be further humiliated. If he is a favorite, they will huumiliate him. See how the dictator of Iraq was humiliated by the United States. He ate humble pie in front of his own people.

The Arabs have a saying: Against me he acts like a lion, but in a fight he flees like an ostrich [preceding in Arabic]. To his own people he is a lion and to the United States a mouse. The imam—may he be admitted to God's paradise—used to say during the war that whenever the Iraqis suffer a defeat, whenever those generals of Qadisiyah are dealt a blow by our mobilization personnel and combatants, Saddam would immediately give them a medal and promote them. Whenever he gave them a medal, it meant that they had suffered a defeat.

Now they are giving Saddam a medal. They announced that the Iraqi Government has given Saddam a medal. What kind of medal? A medal for being humiliated by

the United States, a medal for cowering in front of those who assaulted Iraq, and a medal for shedding the blood of the innocent people of Iraq.

And the world just watches. They just make passing remarks and do not care about the people. The first lesson is that we should stand up to arrogance. You will attain all through resistance, as you have done to date, not through surrender.

The second lesson is that it is not yet the end of the road. We must work hard. [passage omitted] Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Habibi Meets ECO Planning Committee Members

NC2904080891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Members of the planning committee of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, which consists of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, met with First Vice President Mr. Habibi yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, the committee's Iranian secretary general submitted a detailed report on the recent session of the ECO planning committee to the first vice president. Mr. Habibi voiced satisfaction over the reactivation of the ECO planning committee and expressed his hope that the talks produce positive and constructive results.

Paper Denounces U.S. Forces' Deployment in Iraq

NC2604161891 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "A 'Secure Zone' or a Second Israel?"]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The course of political developments in Iran [as published] has suddenly accelerated. Each moment new elements are entering the political equation and are adding to the sensitivity of the events.

By sending at least 5,600 members of its Armed Forces to northern Iraq, the United States has interfered militarily in the Kurdish-inhabited area in Iraq. These forces are armed with various weapons, and the necessary air support has been created to safeguard the security of their operations. Washington has placed its military base at Incirlik in Turkey on alert. It is to be used, if necessary, for its operations or to expand its military presence. France and Britain have also sent a small number of troops to the region, but this number is not worth mentioning compared with the number of U.S. troops.

These military operations are being justified as humanitarian aid to the Iraqi refugees and as ensuring their security in Iraq's Kurdistan. Facts show, however, that this justification does not overshadow the true mission of these forces in northern Iraq. Washington officials have stressed that this is a temporary mission and that the deployment of their forces in northern Iraq will not last long. But this allegation made by Washington carries no weight and will not alleviate the doubts about teh United States' true objectives in commencing these interfering operations.

Washington claims that it has resorted to these operations and to the deployment of its Armed Forces in Iraqi Kurdistan to save the homeless people in northern Iraq. But by considering the dimensions of U.S. crimes committed during the savage bombing of the Muslim territory of Iraq, the United States' humanitarian allegations carry no weight whatsoever. The people of Iraq are oppressed and should be protected, but not by the criminals who were directly or indirectly involved in creating the existing unfavorable situation.

During the 40 days the United States bombarded Iraq by air, all of the Baghdad regime's military capabilties were safeguarded in strong underground cement bunkers and were safe from the allied forces' attacks. By intensifying its bombardments, the United States was actually attacking and inflicting the most blows on Iraq's oppressed people. This means that during the allied attacks, the victims were mostly the oppressed Iraqi people and not the Baghdad regime's military arm. In the post-cease-fire period, the United States gave the green light, and the Iraqi people again became the targets of the sharp blade of the "Baghdad executioner." Fearing the success of a popular uprising in Iraq, the United States granted Saddam permission to use any type of weapon to suppress the oppressed Iraqi people completely. Even Claude Cheysson—former French foreign minister and representative of the leading French Socialist Party in the European Parliament—praised Saddam for this extensive massacre and blatantly announced that it is a source of pleasure that such a power exists in Iraq to crush the Shiites. These and other contradictory remarks by the allies prove that their true objective in deploying their forces in northern Iraq is anything but humanitarian.

Ozal initially favored this plan to deploy forces in northern Iraq but later took back his words. Then John Major, the prime minister of the island of Britain, raised this issue and even made the heads of the EEC approve the principles of the plan. The United States initially disagreed with it. After a short time, however, Washington also agreed and is now rapidly implementing it. The hasty implementation of this plan cannot be attributed to the United States' humanitarian intentions; the allegation that the United States attaches the least bit of value to human beings and to their lives is far from realistic.

Amidst this plan one can discern the faded lines of the "plan to dismember Iraq." These lines are becoming more visual every moment. It is likely that tomorrow the United States and others will support it officially and blatantly.

This plan creates a large security problem for the entire region and for countries neighboring Iraq. Thus, it should be seriously, effectively, and clearly taken into consideration; possible ways to confront it should be sought.

It is possible that the safety zone will expand gradually; with this expansion, the extent of insecurity will also expand. This blatant U.S. military intervention in northern Iraq is aimed at creating a safety zone in which the "bud of a second Israel" can be nurtured.

This phenomenon seriously threatens and renders vulnerable the national security of Iraq's neighboring countries and will spark a new phase of chaos and an arms' race in the region. Experience has shown that insecurity in the region does not benefit any of the regional countries and that this is why joint efforts should be made to confront the treacherous plots by arrogance, no matter how humanitarian they appear.

Only Unused U.S. Refugee Aid Said Acceptable

LD0205111191 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—Iran will accept only brand-new articles supplied by the U.S. for the Iraqi refugees in Iran and will return all used items, an Iranian Interior Ministry official has announced.

After unloading the U.S. aircraft carrying relief supplies for the refugees last Saturday, it became clear that they also included used articles, Interior Ministry's Director General in Charge of Foreign Nationals and Immigrants Ahmad Hoseyni told the Persian daily JOMHURIYE ESLAMI Wednesday. "Therefore, we did not receive the consignment and gave no receipt and said that this consignment must be sorted out, so that the unused items would be accepted and the used articles would be sent back."

He added, "320 airplanes carrying some 10,000 tons of tents, clothing and heating appliances granted by foreign countries and internatioal organisations had landed at the Iranian airports by Wednesday."

"Belgium, Germany and France have dispatched forces along with the consignments expressing willingness to set up refugee camps in Iran," Hoseyni added.

The official, however, said that the foreign groups are mainly unarmed militarymen sent by their respective governments as work forces.

The Interior Ministry official further added that although only one month has passed since the exodus to Iran of Iraqi refugees their lodging and emcampment in Iran has now become systematized.

According to the latest figures, he announced, the number of the Iraqi refugees arriving in Iran has surpassed 1.117 million. Of those total 437,000 were received in Bakhtaran, 510,000 in West Azerbaijan, 175,000 in Kurdestan and 52,000 in Khuzestan Province.

He asserted that more than 60 per cent of the refugees have already been lodged of including 230,000 in Bakhtaran, 290,000 in West Azerbaijan, 125,000 in Kurdestan and 52,000 in Khuzestan Province.

"In addition to the above-mentioned figures, there are other refugees who are temporarily lodged in homes, mosques, public places, villages and border cities who will be gradually transfered to camps."

Moreover, Hoseyni said, another 150,000 refugees are now at border areas who are waiting to find out what course will take the situation inside Iraq.

On the supply of essentials for the refugees, he said that articles such as bread, flour, dates, canned food, rice and edible oil are presently being distributed among the refugees. Also shops have been set up inside the camps providing the refugees with all kinds of daily articles.

Meanwhile, the encamped refugees have received special passes to go to the neighbouring villages and cities to personally procure their needs, he continued.

The refugees have been settled in 50 camps, each with a capacity of 10,000 to 15,000 refugees.

The Interior Ministry official warned that Iran will face more serious health problems if the refugees are to stay on for a longer period in Iran, adding that the three-month ration of medical and sanitary products of the hosting provinces have already been distributed among the refugees but that there are acute shortage of such products.

He predicted that with the start of the summer season and a relaxation in the flow of domestic and international donations, the question of taking care of over one million refugees becomes more and more difficult and demands more serious and exact programming.

Hoseyni called on the nation as well as foreign countries and international organisations to send more relief supplies, and expressed hope that the situation in Iraq will turn to the benefit of the Iraqi oppressed people.

UN To Send Envoy To Estimate War Damage

LD0205092891 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, May 2, IRNA—U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is to send a personal envoy to Tehran to estimate war damage to Iran and assess the cost of reconstruction programs.

According to paragraph seven of the U.N. Security Council resolution on Iran-Iraq war the U.N. secretary general is bound to delegate an experts team to Iran to find out the extent of damage and submit its report to the Security Council.

Javier Perez de Cuellar met with Iran's permanent representative at the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi Wednesday morning and reviewed relevant topics.

Kharrazi also briefed Perez de Cuellar on the situation of more than one million Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Iran stating that the problem warrants additional efforts by international organizations.

In an interview in Istanbul Wednesday, Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told newsmen that Iran has not seized Iraqi aircraft that are parked in Iran as part of material damage to Iran. He said the damages Iran will demand from Iraq "will have to be determined by the U.N., which decision Iran still awaits."

Portuguese Trade Minister Begins Visit

LD3004125991 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Portuguese Trade Minister Fernando Manuel Barbosa Faria de Oliveira arrived here on a five-day official visit Tuesday and was greeted by Deputy Commerce Minister Mohammad Shariatmadar. De Oliveira's visit to Tehran is of special significance because Portugal will hold the rotating presidency of the European Community (EC) after Luxembourg, Shariatmadar said.

Lisbon is in favour of exporting industrial products to Iran and importing Iranian handicraft and other consumer products, he added.

Meets With Counterpart

LD0105125191 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—The visiting Portuguese Trade Minister Fernando Manuel Barbosa Faria de Oliveira held second round of talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji here Wednesday morning.

Referring to Iran's postwar policy of boosting industrial production, Vahaji welcomed Iran-Portugal cooperation in industrial, commercial and technological fields.

De Oliveira who arrived here Tuesday on a five-day official visit described his talks with Iranian officials so far as very fruitful which he said will help further strengthen Tehran-Lisbon political, cultural, economic ties.

He added that contacts between the representatives of the Portuguese private companies and organizations and the Iranian businessmen and private firms will be beneficial in promoting bilateral relations.

Ties Stressed

LD0205093791 Tehran IRNA in English 0639 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—The visiting Portuguese Minister of Trade Fernando Manuel Barbosa Faria de Oliveira discussed promotion of Tehran-Lisbon ties in separate meetings with ministers of defence and armed forces logistics, Akbar Torkan, and construction jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh Wednesday. Torkan called for Tehran-Lisbon cooperation on maintenance and repair of military equipment.

Promotion of mutual cooperation in forestry, wood and paper industries, fishery, livestock breeding, poultry farms, natural resources and research covered de Oliveira's talks with Foruzesh.

De Oliveira arrived here Tuesday heading a delegation on a five-day official visit.

Pakistan

Khan Urges Regional Approach to Nonproliferation

BK0105163491 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said Pakistan believes a regional approach to nuclear nonproliferation is the most feasible and effective means to resolve this issue in the South Asian region. This he said in a message read out at the inaugural session of the first national conference on physical and (?biological) consequences of nuclear war in Islamabad today. The president said they were committed to the cause of nuclear nonproliferation and were consistently supporting the efforts to check the spread of nuclear weapons.

Plea To Avert Kashmir Showdown Viewed

BK3004143291 Lahore THE NATION in English 30 Apr 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Averting Pakistani-Indian Conflict"]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq's optimism that the revolt in Occupied Kashmir should not lead to war between Pakistan and India is ostensibly well placed. It is an indigenous uprising, as the President said, and has been provoked by India's adamant refusal to vacate its forcible occupation of the State and fulfill its commitment of letting its people exercise their right of self-determination. Pakistan has been categorically denying any hand in it, although it does not buy the New Delhi-created fiction of Kashmir being an integral part of India, and is, therefore, not vulnerable to the charge that it was interfering in India's internal matters. If the resistance in Occupied Kashmir has come to such a pass that, despite brutal use of force and mass reprisals, the freedom fighters are giving the occupation forces a run for their money, the Indians are themselves to blame. It

is not the Paksitani hand, and New Delhi would like the world to believe, that has sustained the resistance in Kashmir Valley. Foreign-inspired rebels are people without conviction who are not motivated enough, no mater how tempting are the material incentives, to go the whole hog in fighting for a cause, had it been engineered from across the border, or as New Delhi's propaganda machine is giving out round the clock, the handiwork of Pakistani-trained and armed infiltrators, the insurgency in the Valley would not have assumed [the] proportions that it has and persisted in the wake of such ruthless suppression.

Ironically, while the Indian TV is parading captured "militants" to bring home their Pakistani connection and to convince the Kashmiri that these "misled" youth were now repentant for killing innocent people, almost daily encounters were taking place between the freedom fighters and the security forces. And the recurring death toll in armed clashes is a living testimony of their invincible spirit of struggle and sacrifice. Pakistan has no cause to go to war with India over Kashmir. The Kashmiris are capable enough of fighting their war of liberation. Nevertheless, Pakistan has a moral commitment to stand by the Kashmiris and extend all possible political support to their cause. If the Indians have any illusions of browbeating Pakistan into abandoning its principled stand that the Kashmiris' struggle for freedom is legitimate as they have been arbitrarily denied their right of self-determinaton, they are making a crucial error of judgement. And by raising the bogey of Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir, New Delhi is unnecessarily escalating tension over an issue that, as President Ghulam Ishaq has said, should be resolved through accommodation and understanding.

Implementation of UN Kashmir Resolution Urged

BK0105122291 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has reiterated his government's determination to put the country on the path of self-reliance in all spheres. He was addressing a convention of Pakistan Muslim League [PML] in Lahore this afternoon, organized to mark the beginning of the new enrollment campaign of the party. He said Pakistan has adequate natural resources and it can emerge as a prosperous country by mobilizing the resources in proper manner. The prime minister also reiterated his government's commitment to make Pakistan a truly Islamic welfare state where the Koran and Sunnah are held supreme. He said a society free from exploitation would be established and all citizens would be provided equal opportunities to play their roles in the mainstream of national life.

Referring to the situation in held Kashmir, Mr. Nawaz Sharif urged the United Nations to take serious notice of Indian atrocities being perpetrated on innocent Kashmiri people. He called upon the world body to implement its resolution on settlement of the Kashmir issue. The PML convention was attended by the president of PML, Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo, as the chief guest and it was addressed by a number of central and provincial leaders of the party.